

## The Times-Dispatch

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## TRUSTS AND REMEDIES.

We print elsewhere in to-day's paper an article from Mr. Willis B. Smith, in reply to the article from the pen of Mr. William L. Royall, published in last Sunday's paper, on the evils of the trust.

We also print another article from Mr. Royall, in which he gives his remedy for the trust evil.

It is an interesting discussion and it is only by discussion pro and con that the truth is finally arrived at.

Mr. Royall said in his first article that the tendency of the trust was to destroy competition and to put the great industrial enterprises of the country into the hands of a few men. Mr. Smith replies, as this paper has frequently pointed out, that while a few men may control the trusts, they are in fact, owned by many men, and under the present system it is a simple matter for those who have money to invest to purchase an interest in almost any one of the trusts. The stocks of these concerns are generally listed in the New York Stock Exchange and they are traded in day after day at the market price. A man may go in and purchase one share or a hundred shares or a thousand shares, if he is willing to pay the market price, and thus become a stockholder in the company and participate in its earnings. He may also sell out at a moment's notice. A man may thus become a stockholder in an industrial corporation, or in a railroad corporation, and everybody who is at all familiar with the facts, knows that the number of such stockholders has increased enormously within the last few years. Mr. Smith calls Mr. Royall's attention to the fact that the number of common stockholders of the United States Steel Corporation has increased from 17,000 to 28,000 during the past year, that the number of preferred stockholders has increased from 25,000 to 31,000 and in addition 27,000 employees of the company took the preferred stock during the year.

We would call his attention to the case of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, the so-called fertilizer trust. It is hardly necessary to say that there are hundreds and thousands of stockholders in that company in Richmond, in Virginia and throughout the South, and to-day the general public is all in the dark as to what particular persons actually own the controlling interest.

It may be said in reply that persons who bought these stocks made bad investments, as prices have declined greatly within the past twelve months. But that does not alter the fact that individuals have the opportunity under present conditions of becoming stockholders in the large corporations, and such an opportunity as they never before had.

Under the old system, when a few individuals operating together as partners owned a profitable business, they kept it to themselves; under the present system the general public are permitted to become stockholders in almost every one of the large corporations to which Mr. Royall refers.

We do not deny that these corporations are powerful, and as they are the creatures of law they must be regulated by law. But corporations are a necessity. They have come, as Mr. Royall himself has so often said, to meet the inevitable demands of this age of steam and electricity, and they are doing a great work which could not be done otherwise. They cannot be destroyed without destroying the great enterprises and industries of the country. They are here to stay, and we must deal with them as necessities—if evils, as necessary evils, and it is our business to regulate them in such a way as to reduce the evil to the minimum, and to make them of greatest possible benefit to the public.

And now in conclusion a word concerning Mr. Royall's remedy for trusts. He says that he would have Congress enact a law setting up a corporation commission in each State. Any person should then be allowed to go before the commission and complain that a certain trust was endeavoring to crush him by unfair and dishonest traffic, called by it competition. If the commission should find that the citizen had brought a trumped-up tale before it, it might put the costs on him and fine him for dishonest procedure. But if the commission found his statements to be true, it might fine the trust to whatever extent it thought necessary to make it trade fairly.

That is indeed a strange position for a Democrat to take. First of all, Mr. Royall would practically do away with State control of corporations and vest that con-

trol in a commission created by the Federal Congress. Then he would have the most autocratic body ever dreamed of in the American Republic, a body that would have it absolutely within its power to control the great business interests of the United States and to destroy them at will. We do not say that it would exercise its power, but it would have the power, and it would be a dangerous power for any body of men to have.

But laying that aside, What sort of liberty would there be in the business world if there were a national commission having absolute authority to say to this business concern and that that it should not sell its goods under a certain price? Suppose it should be all right to apply this to the trusts, how should we determine which corporations were trusts and which were not? And if the rule applied to one corporation, why not to all, and if it applied to corporations, why not to individuals? And mind you, this commission would be the creation of the National Congress and the representative of the national government.

But again. If a citizen could go before this high and mighty commission and prevent a trust from underselling him, could not the trust go before the commission and prevent a citizen from underselling it? And could not one big corporation prevent another big corporation from cutting rates? We see that citizens of Richmond are asking for a franchise to operate a competing electric light plant in this city, and that if it goes into business it will undersell the old company. But under Mr. Royall's plan the old company could go before the National Corporation Commission and prevent it.

Mr. Royall assails the trusts on the ground that they destroy competition, yet he would set up in place of the private corporations a great government trust, which would prohibit competition. If we are going into any such business as that, better let the government take control of everything and appoint a Czar.

## LEE AS A PATRIOT.

A writer in the Outlook says: "No one desires to subtract in the least from the tribute of praise due to the memory of General Robert E. Lee for his many noble qualities. But if we are to preserve at all the meaning of words, or keep clear these distinctions which give words their moral value, it does not seem to me that we can rightly call General Lee a 'patriot'."

"Webster's International Dictionary gives as the sole definition of a patriot—'one who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interests.' In the hour of his country's sorest need General Lee gave his love and his zealous support to his foes, and strove to overthrow its authority and interests."

"What nonsense! General Lee 'loved his country and zealously supported its authority and interests.' He fought for it and suffered for it, and sacrificed his every interest for it, and would have laid down his life for it, if that sacrifice had been required."

But his country was Virginia. Virginia formed a part of the United States, and the United States was in a sense General Lee's country so long as Virginia remained in the Union. But when Virginia left the Union, as under the Constitution she had the right to do, General Lee went with her. What else could he have done? Right or wrong, Virginia was his State, his country, and he stood by her like the true patriot that he was.

"When the Federal Constitution was framed and adopted," said Mr. Charles Francis Adams, of Boston, in a recent address. "What was treason—to what or to whom, in case of final issue, did the average citizen owe allegiance? Was it to the Union or to his State? As a practical question, seeing things as they then were, I do not think the answer admits of doubt. If put in 1778, or indeed, at any time antedating 1825, the immediate reply of nine men out of ten in the Northern States, and ninety-nine out of a hundred in the Southern States, would have been that, as between the Union and the State, ultimate allegiance was due to the State." And again: "As I read the record and understand the real facts of that now forgotten social and political existence, in case of direct and insoluble issue between sovereign State and sovereign nation, between 1778 and 1861, every man was not only free to decide, but had to decide for himself; and whichever way he decided he was right. The Constitution gave him two masters. Both he could not serve; and the average man decided which to serve in the light of sentiment, tradition and environment. Of this I feel as historically confident as I can feel of any fact not a matter of absolute record or susceptible of demonstration."

General Lee had to decide which was his country, the United States or Virginia, in which he was born and reared, and to which he had sworn his undying allegiance. Of course, he decided for Virginia, and he decided right, and he was a patriot technically and by the definition of Webster, as well as in heart.

## PAY FOR PATRIOTS.

The Cuban soldiers who saw service in the last war for the independence of that country think—or at least say—that they are entitled to receive pay at the rate of one dollar per day, and a congressional committee has accepted their view of the question; but it seems that the finances of the country will not allow any such compensation.

The Cuban army was a curious one—made up perhaps by the necessities of the situation. Not having a regular and reliable commissariat, the men often broke ranks and scattered in order to provide for themselves. Sometimes they quartered themselves upon an unwilling and terrorized people; sometimes they returned for the time being to their own homes.

Calling the roll and answering it was a very informal thing in that army, and we doubt if there is a single Cuban regiment the books of which show the exact attendance of officers and men day by day. Still they kept up a warfare, desultory and uncertain, it is true, but continuous, which finally resulted in the United States government interfering, and which, through the American army, eventually accomplished the independence of the country.

That there were many true patriots and brave men in the Cuban army we do

not question; that many rascally fellows belonged to it we must also believe, but these two classes appear to have made common cause in demanding compensation for their services, and they are receiving the help of politicians who know very well indeed how to cater to 'the soldier vote'."

From all accounts Cuba is much too poor to pay the private one dollar per day, and officers in proportion, for the years they served. Their claims will have to be scaled immensely, unless these veteran patriots are willing now to bankrupt the country which they claim to have saved.

Objection has been made, too, that one dollar per day is an unreasonably large sum of money to be paid to any private soldier. In support of this view it is urged that the enlisted men of the United States army are paid only thirteen dollars per month; but it seems to us that that is not necessarily a good argument, for United States soldiers are fed, clothed and armed by the government, whereas the Cuban volunteer usually was expected to "find" himself. However, the treaty of this country with Cuba prohibits the latter from incurring debts, the interest upon which cannot be paid out of the ordinary revenues of the republic. At this very time Cuba is spending all the money that comes into her treasury, and as fast as it comes.

Our recollection is that upon the disbandment of the Cuban army considerable payments were made the officers and men to enable them to return to their homes and resume industrial life.

That money must have come from the United States. There was no other possible source of supply. Nevertheless, something more may be honestly due the veterans, but unless this country consents we do not see how the Cuban Congress can possibly make provision for its payment.

## OUTLOOK FOR TRADE.

The trade reviews for last week show that business is excellent. Dun says that conditions are as favorable as last year, and that in many lines the volume of transactions has increased.

Jobbers report full business opening with excellent prospects, and manufacturing plants are well occupied with the exception of cotton mills. Distribution of merchandise is so heavy that railway equipment already proves inadequate, although crops are not the factor that they will be in a few weeks.

Earnings for July exceeded last year by 22.7 per cent., and those of 1901 by 20.2 per cent.

The news from the cotton fields of the South and the grain fields of the West is also favorable, and in most cities bank clearings for the week show an increase. This was notably the case with Richmond, where the increase was twenty per cent.

But for all that Wall Street is still having spasms, and in the brief session of the Stock Exchange yesterday prices crumbled away, and several new low records were made in such stocks as St. Paul, Atchafson and Union Pacific. It will not do to say that this slump in prices is a "purely Wall Street affair." The slump has impaired credit and shaken confidence. It has lessened the capacity of individual and railroad corporations to procure money for needed improvements, and if the situation does not improve such corporations will have to live more economically, which means that their demands for supplies will be curtailed. That would mean less work for the workmen, and probably a cut in wages.

We do not mean to take a gloomy view, for when a great nation like ours is actively at work it can run for a long time by its own momentum. But it is always well to be frank with ourselves and to look a situation, however ugly it may be, squarely in the face. Wall Street has been discounting a new situation in the business world, and while we think the discounting business has as usual been carried too far, at least for the present, its effect must be felt far and wide.

## THE HANOVER CART.

To many strangers who visit Richmond one of the curiosities of the place is the Hanover market cart. Familiar enough to us, it is something new to them. The like of it is to be seen here and there up and down the Southern coast, where it is often used as a fish cart; but it is unknown to most other parts of the United States.

It is a short, "chunky" vehicle, covered with an arch of canvas and having a close body, which is built upon and into the shafts. To dump it one has but to remove the tail-board, loose the harness, and raise the shafts, and out the load goes. But usually the driver takes out the horse, drops the shafts to the ground, and stands between them and in that position sells his load, whether it be watermelons, canteloupes, or sweet potatoes. Having disposed of his stock, he pitches up his horse, mounts the shafts, seats himself upon the forepart of the body, hunches his back under the canvas, and goes home merrily.

In the afternoon scores of these carts may be seen on the roads to Cold Harbor, Mechanicsville, etc. At present they are bringing to Richmond canteloupes and garden truck. A little later watermelons will make up most of their loads, and later yet sweet potatoes will be the produce they will bring here to exchange for the city people's money.

In the springtime some of these carts are employed to bring fish to Richmond from the Chickahominy River and from that part of the James above City Point. This trade was once very important, but of late years has been almost annihilated by reason of the scarcity of fish, and the superior facilities for transportation offered fishermen by the railroad companies.

This year's watermelon crop is late, as most other crops in this vicinity are, and Hanover, Henrico and Chesterfield counties as yet have furnished consumers with comparatively few of these melons. The truth is that farmers do not take the pains they formerly did to get their melons into market early. It is hardly worth their while. Let them rush things as they may, melons from the far South will get here before any of the home crop is ripe.

The late Dr. John G. Lumpkin, formerly of Mechanicsville, was wont to tell of his

bringing a cartload of watermelons here on July 4th. That was in his boyhood, and was a long time ago. What made a vivid impression upon the doctor's memory was that he was able to sell the melons at fifty cents apiece. But no such feat as that is achieved now-a-days. Our earliest melons come from Florida and Georgia.

The cry of the melon vender is another feature of Richmond's summer life. But it is not what it was in "the good old times." The white driver does not excel at it and the younger generation of negroes do not desport themselves with that unctious which was characteristic of their forbears. But all is not lost! Now and then we hear a sing-song cry that is a reminder of plantation days and lays.

As for charcoal venders and their quaint carts, why, they are rare. One or two such venders were heard on the streets of this city last week—this being the fruit preserving season, when many housewives demand charcoal for the fires they wish to kindle underneath the copper kettles in which the stewing is done. But charcoal has been largely displaced by anthracite, and whereas, all housekeepers used to do more or less "preserving," the contrary is now the rule—the women preferring to escape that hot and fretting work by purchasing canned goods, which may be made to serve as tolerable substitutes for the home-made articles.

In the matter of watermelons, the Richmond public has an abiding faith that those from Hanover and other nearby counties—Chickahominy counties especially—are the best. And so they are—for us! We get them "fresh and fine, red and juicy, and jess off do vine," whereas, those brought here from long distances usually have been picked prematurely and are liable to be stale.

Watermelons are enjoyed most when the eater is young and is not wearing his best clothes, and there is said to be a peculiar lusciousness in those stolen from a patch and eaten in a fence corner. But that is a privilege which all of us cannot enjoy. For the great multitude a fresh, ripe, juicy Hanover melon that has been bought and paid for and put on ice for twenty-four hours will suffice if the day be hot and one's thirst great.

## JESUS EXALTED.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"Sit thou at my right hand." It will be remembered how our Saviour perplexed the Pharisees, by showing that these words were addressed by the Father to the Messiah, whom David calls his "Lord," though he was his "son." But let us not notice the expression itself, and the more so because the expression occurs so frequently in the Scriptures.

It may be considered as importing repose and refreshment after all his exertion and toil. For he did labor, as he said, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh, wherein no man can work." At the close of life, therefore, he could acknowledge, "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." And though, from the state of his mind and heart, to do the will of him that sent him to finish his work was his meat and drink, yet he was no stranger to weariness and suffering. But he hath entered into his rest, having ceased from his own works as God did from his. He bleedeth, he dieth no more. "For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Sitting at the right hand denotes pre-eminence. At the last day the saints are represented as at the right hand of the Judge. Joseph wished the right hand of his father to be imposed upon the head of Manasseh, his first born. At Solomon's right hand sat the queen. In hold of Ophir. The greatest honor a king can show to any person is to seat him at his right hand. Hence all the glories of empire, therefore, were to descend from this station, as we see in the psalm before us. From thence his enemies were to be made his footstool; from thence he should send forth the rod of his strength out of Zion, and rule in the midst of his foes; from thence, in the dew of the morning; and from thence he should strike through kings in the day of his wrath, drink of the brook in the way, and lift up his head as more than a conqueror. Hence the apostle considers it the extreme of dignity: To which of the angels said he at any time, "Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" and again, "He set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under his feet."

Much of this is at present unrealized. But we see Jesus, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor. And the dew should gratify our affection. Love delights in the glory of its object. If, therefore, we love him in sincerity, after sympathizing with him in the garden, and smiling on our breasts at the cross, what a satisfaction shall we feel to view him possessed of power over all flesh, all power in Heaven and in earth, and exalted far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

John could not go on with his description of him without pausing to express the adoration of his heart: "To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen." Let the view also encourage our hope. We are deeply interested in his elevation. It was expedient for us that He went away. In his ascension He received gifts for men. As glorified, He gives the Holy Ghost. As exalted, He is a Prince and a Saviour, to rule and relieve His people, and to make all things work together for their good. "Who is he that comprehendeth it? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who is our head and representative, and by reason of our union with him, we are 'quickened together with Christ, and raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ.'"

And let it wean us from the earth, bringing a cartload of watermelons here on July 4th. That was in his boyhood, and was a long time ago. What made a vivid impression upon the doctor's memory was that he was able to sell the melons at fifty cents apiece. But no such feat as that is achieved now-a-days. Our earliest melons come from Florida and Georgia.

Where the treasure is, there will the heart be also. But He is your treasure, and He is in Heaven. Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen. Follow him, and "seek those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God." What an inducement it was to Jacob, at a period when nature dislikes a change, to leave his own country, and go down into Egypt, when he heard the message. "Thus saith thy son, Joseph, God hath made me ruler throughout all the land of Egypt; come down unto me, tarry not; and thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, and there will I nourish thee." At once his aversion and fears gave way. "And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph, my son is yet alive; I will go and see him before I die." And what says Jesus to His people? Come up hither. I am Lord of all the region into which ye shall enter; come, and be near me; come, and be forever with the Lord.

And let it embolden us while here to acknowledge and honor him. Were we to be ashamed of him, or to deny him, we should be far guiltier than Peter; for we run no such risk in confessing him as he did; he trembled for his life. And when he disowned him, his Lord was a prisoner at the bar, and going to be crucified, under a charge of blasphemy and sedition; but we deny him on the throne; angels, principalities, and powers being subject unto him, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in the world to come. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."

It is said that the war in South Africa was largely on account of the negro; that England thought it her duty to teach the Boers how to open the "door of hope" to the black man, and yet the negro does not find the door very wide open in other parts of King Edward's dominions. The suggestion that a negro colony be founded in Canada is promptly discouraged by the Toronto Globe, which wants Canadian immigrants all to be of one color, and that color white.

The Springfield, Mass., Republican denies the rumor that the navy is to be closed to the negro, and bases its denial on this: "No Republican Secretary of the Navy, especially one hailing from Massachusetts, would dare authorize an order that would debar any class of citizens from serving their country in its fleet."

The Chicago University, which is generally supposed to be backed by Rockefeller's millions, does not hesitate to censure the poverty act when called to book. The institution has just refused to pay its city water bill to the Chicago authorities, and in explanation President Harper admits that the University is running behind at the rate of \$200,000 a year.

An Ohio mob is now red hot after a negro to mob him for the "usual crime." The trouble is in the dignified old town of Hillsboro, in the southern part of the State, and we have no doubt we will now be hearing that the lynching fever was contracted from Hillsboro's Kentucky neighbors.

We are glad to see the familiar name of R. D. Halliell at the head of the editorial column of the Staunton News. Mr. Halliell is one of the best editors in the State. He is sensible, he is well informed, he is discreet, he is courageous and he is honest. It is good to have such a man in charge of an influential Virginia newspaper.

Compulsory base-ball is a feature of the Duluth police department. Patrolmen must engage in it whether they wish to or not. It is held that the exercise thus furnished will prevent the men from getting fat and lazy.

Well, well, well! The color line being drawn right square in the White House grounds during the Roosevelt administration, and the President not at home to take part in the fun.

The small boy, regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude, rejoices that the supply of Hanover watermelons is getting somewhere in halting distance of the demand.

The government weather prophets vigorously deny that the slump in stocks has had anything to do with hurrying on the cool wave.

"Are metals alive?" asks a scientific man in Germany. We suggest that the scientific man tackle a live wire and see for himself.

The explanation of the drop in Chemical and some other stocks does not explain to the satisfaction of the fellow that they got the drop on.

The appointment of thirty-three new brigadier-generals is just one way of decreasing the size of the active standing army.

A few days after General Miles made his ninety-mile ride President Roosevelt bought a new fast horse, and we are impatient to hear his first ratings.

It is safe to predict that there will be no more attempts shortly to rob the postoffice at Reams, in this State.

Of course, "the enemy" was captured in the mimic naval war. That's what "the enemy" was there for.

Great Britain feels the need of a sweetening up, and will soon abolish the tariff on raw molasses.

Senator Gorman isn't rushing into print or anywhere else to deny that he is edging up to the Democratic nomination.

It is easy to observe with the naked eye that King Edward did not need to snack the barley stone.

It would seem that Professor Langley will have to get a move on himself if he does not get one on his airship.

Gott! made a good run, but he never got it.

What is left of the Populist party is taking to the by-path with a lone hand.

Anyhow, this public keeps close to its starting point, among the speculators

## Events of the Week

## Under Brief Review.

The past week has demonstrated that Congressman Jones was away off when he told the Washington reporters a few days ago that "there is nothing doing in politics in Virginia." A great deal has been doing. It is admitted that Democratic primaries in most of the counties of this State are equivalent to an election and this being true, the primaries that were held last week and the arrangements that were made for the holding of others, and the canvassing that went on in many counties, were no doubt still others that have already been arranged for, make up an immense amount of doing in politics in Virginia. The most noteworthy event of the week was the nomination of Hon. Camm Patterson for the State Senate. Mr. Patterson, of the Democratic party, was supposed to have permanently retired from politics of the active kind and many of the friends of Buckingham thought Mr. Pettit would have no trouble in defeating him for the nomination, but the old war horse came to the front with a right spry little majority.

The figures showing the receipts of the government for the first month of the new fiscal year were made public during the week and they are worthy of study. They show a slight reduction of revenue—\$18,611,573, as against \$18,626,000 for the last year, and a somewhat smaller decrease in expenditures, which exceed revenue by \$7,742,412. This is a deficit about \$1,000,000 less than that of the same year in 1907. The one thing certain about this fiscal year is that expenditure will be well kept within the means of the government. Revenues will be maintained. That, however, will depend largely upon the course of the world's imports, which now come in unprecedented volume, but are likely to decline somewhat before next June.

A remarkable story comes this week from Manchester, N. H. The papers of that place tell us that the city is suffering from a plague of rats, which are undermining buildings, streets and sidewalks, and seem likely to do much damage. People walking along the streets are very careful for they never know when they may sink through the seemingly secure brick to a deep den of vermin. Within a week or two there have been two bad "cav-ins" in the business section, both caused by rats. One in front of the Windsor Hotel, extended for many feet under the street to the car tracks to an excavated chamber ten feet square. Numerous other chambers of this kind are daily disclosed by the overhead pavement falling in. The street commissioner keeps men patrolling the city, fearing further damage.

James Wingate Folk, the St. Louis prosecuting attorney, who has been making a name for himself by pushing the hoodlums to the walls of the penitentiary, continues to be the recipient of attention and marked respect. A few days ago he was the principal speaker at the "Old Settlers' Day" celebration at New Florence, Mo. Ten thousand people were present, and most of them were said to be wearing Folk buttons when they went away. After listening to Mr. Folk the meeting broke up with a cheering and singing his support in all his efforts against corruption. The idea seems to be that in the future the people will have to look to the law-abiding citizen for their protection. Good citizens must defend her from those who would debase her honor to selfish ends.

The overthrow of corruption here would be the greatest battle won for good government in the tide of the decision upon this mighty issue will give encouragement and cheer to the law-abiding everywhere.

Gird up your loins for the fight and let the decree be announced and enforced that the hoodlums shall be made to feel that kind of vigorous doctrine will almost surely make him Governor of Missouri, and in time may make him President of the United States.

The Railway Age, a publication of Chicago, is expected to be a very interesting issue of last week gives us some very entertaining figures and comments which we herewith present. The Age calculates that the railroads of the United States use 10,000,000 ties a year merely to replace those worn out by use. They cost about \$200,000,000 a year, and what a loss to the country! There is tremendous waste in this apparently small matter, and the life of the average tie used by American railroads is not much over 5 years, but in France ties from beechwood treated with preservatives are found to last for thirty-five years. The railroad tie, like a good many other things, is typical of American waste and extravagance.

Secretary Root has startled the young West Point graduates, or at least quite a number of them, by making them, in the last week, that ruling simply is to the effect that young officers who graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point shall not resign and quit the army simply because they desire to embark in other business. He refuses to accept the resignation of three young lieutenants who had just graduated, and gave better reasons for desiring to leave the service. The government, according to the Secretary, is entitled to the benefit of the services of the officers who have been educated and trained by the government at considerable expense. Ten years ago the government began to pay attention to the service because of the few opportunities to employ them to advantage in a small army. Now they are denied the right to resign and leave the army, ever they choose to resign their commissions.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s report of failures for the month of July, contains some very interesting figures that may well be kept in mind for future reference. The commercial failures for the month, according to Dun, involve a defaulted indebtedness aggregating \$19,546, and \$6,382,851 in the month of June ago, and \$7,065,933 in July of 1901. Indeed, the sum of liabilities is the largest of any July in a decade, exceeding the record of \$60,695 against that month in 1893. The increase comes from all classes of bankruptcies—about 100,000 in the month of July ago, and 100,000 in the month of June ago, amounting to \$3,757,751, against \$2,568,553 a year ago; trading \$3,571,603, against \$2,848,628; and other commercial failures, including \$1,217,544, against \$1,264,719, in 1901—the latter class of failures being unduly increased by the collapse of three Wall-Street houses.

St. Paul is the first place to attempt thorough dealing to prevent the fatalities to the bar of the District of Columbia of July in the conventional way. Influential business men, physicians and city officials are backing the effort. The city is said, will be reported. It prohibits the use of barbituric acid, bromide and nitro and such like. It not only forbids their use on the Fourth, but dealers are prohibited from carrying them for sale for a month previous. This kind of an ordinance to apply to the Christmas time and to hold good for a month on each side of it could well be adopted in Richmond and other Virginia cities, certainly not excepting Norfolk.

The probabilities are that an authoritative interpretation of the queer citizenship clause of the famous Foraker-Forest Supreme Court of the United States in a very roundabout way.

Two young Porto Ricans, by name Davila and Boneta, who had been studying law in Washington, applied for admission to the bar of the District of Columbia last month. It was decided by the Board of Examiners that they could take the bar examination, but that they were not entitled by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to sit for the examination until they had taken the bar examination in the American citizenship. The young men thereupon decided not to be examined for admission to the bar, on the ground that, in the opinion of the District of Columbia, they could not be open to the slightest doubt. They have returned to Porto Rico, for the time being, and are waiting for the examination of a spirited protest, but it is said that they will return in a short time and take the bar examination. The courts to pass definitely on the question of their citizenship.

F. S. W.

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